



# COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER

CITY OF SAN DIEGO – COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

## Press Release

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### **Davis and Lightner Urge Congress to Help Save La Jolla Post Office**

*Proposed legislation would give community chance to purchase post office*

SAN DIEGO – Councilmember Sherri Lightner today joined Congresswoman Susan Davis and members of the Save Our La Jolla Post Office Task Force to urge Congress to pass groundbreaking legislation that would afford communities more say in the fate of post offices slated for sale.

In response to the proposed sale of the La Jolla Post Office, Congresswoman Davis has drafted legislation that would allow the U.S. Postal Service to sell any post office to an established non-profit community group at fair market value. The group would then be able to lease back the space to the Postal Service at a nominal fee.

The proposed legislation, which has received bipartisan support from Congressmen Brian Bilbray and Bob Filner, provides a way for communities to preserve their local post offices while providing the U.S. Postal Service with the revenue it needs to operate efficiently.

To prod Congress into action, yesterday the San Diego City Council (unanimously) passed a resolution in support of the “Community Post Office Relocation Act.” Councilmember Lightner, who has been working tirelessly with the community to preserve the historic post office located at 1140 Wall St., applauded Congresswoman Davis’ legislation and urged Congress to act.

“We have always said that we need to come up with a solution that makes sense both for La Jolla and for the U.S. Postal Service,” Lightner said. “This legislation does just that and provides a practical, yet innovative, model for communities across the country.”

“Councilmember Lightner knows La Jolla and she knows how much La Jolla values its post office because it builds community and is essential to commerce,” said Davis. “La Jollans have come together to say that the Wall Street building is more than just a post office to them – it’s at the heart of their history and their identity.”

Facing tough economic times, the U.S. Postal Service announced in January 2012 that it was planning to sell the La Jolla Post Office and relocate its operations. Built in 1935, the historic post office is both an economic and cultural hub for La Jolla. The Spanish-style building also contains “California Landscape,” an original 1939 Works Progress Administration (WPA) mural of the La Jolla Cove and Village painted by noted artist Belle Baranceanu.

In addition to lobbying local and federal officials, the Save Our La Jolla Post Office Task Force is also in the process of trying to obtain an historic designation for the building.

For more information about the issue, please visit the Save Our La Jolla Post Office website at [http://www.savelajollapostoffice.org/Home\\_Page.html](http://www.savelajollapostoffice.org/Home_Page.html).

*Congresswoman Susan Davis represents California's 53rd Congressional District, which includes the heart of San Diego and stretches from Torrey Pines Park to the U.S.-Mexico border and from the Pacific Ocean through Mission Valley to East County.*

*Sherri Lightner is the councilmember for Council District One of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Hills, Torrey Highlands, Torrey Pines, and University City. She took office December 8, 2008.*

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